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ABSTRACT

Compiled in response to questions from Oregon citizens about library and information services in their state, this report contains: (1) a general description of the Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services held in June 1978: (2) a delegate's viewpoint on the White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS): (3) a sampling of WHCLIS resolutions: (4) an interview with Oregon's State Librarian, Marcia Lowell: (5) a synopsis of resolutions adopted at the Governor's Conference: (6) a glossary: (7) a listing of Oregon's delegates to WHCLIS: (8) a reprint of a Wall Street Journal editorial on WHCLIS: and (9) a mail-back for readers of the report. (FM)

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OREGONIANS

and Their Library and Information Services

A Progress Report

A report on citizen involvement in the
Governor's Conference on Library and Information
Services, June 1-3, 1978

and the

White House Conference on Library and Information
Services, November 15-19, 1979

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February 1980

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

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A glossary of terms

A listing of the White House Conference delegates

An editorial: the *Wall Street Journal*, January 14, 1980

A mail-back: staying involved in the library picture

What is the picture (of library and information services) in Oregon these days?

Who gets services?
Where are the libraries?
Do all Oregonians have access to equal opportunity for services?
How are library services funded?
Do libraries cooperate much?
Is interlibrary loan a myth or a specialized service for particular needs?
Who is served by the State Library of Oregon?

This report is compiled in response to these and many other questions from Oregonians about their library and information services.

The White House Conference was a national meeting, called by the President to discuss important issues facing the American people. President Dwight D. Eisenhower called such a conference in 1955 to deal with education problems; ten years later President Lyndon B. Johnson called another on the same topic. Other presidents have used this process to deal with such topics such as the aged, nutrition, conservation of natural resources and the industrial world of the future. Children and the family have been the focus of several White House Conferences. The 1979 White House Conference on Library and Information Services was the first in this field.

The White House Conference process usually includes the staging of state conferences, commonly under the name of the governor, which are structured in such ways that all segments of the citizenry may be represented and heard from. In Oregon, a three-day conference in June 1978 involved close to 200 people invited from a representative cross-section of the population and made up of two-thirds lay persons and one-third professional and governance persons from the library and information services community.

Previous to the June conference, a multitude of activities in both rural and metropolitan areas of the state included as many people as possible in stating their cases and causes: media "spots," newspaper articles, the development of position papers by professional organizations related to the library and information services, formation and training of groups of leaders and facilitators for community "speak-outs" held in nineteen areas of the state. The results of these public forums were analyzed and became the core of the work of those who were invited to the Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services.

In June of 1978 nearly 200 people cooperated in exploring that picture for three days. Out of their questioning, discussing and wrestling with ideas and words came fifty nine resolutions addressing "the library picture"—and forty-two were passed addressing how Oregon's library and information needs might better be met in the future.

What happened after these 200 people went back home again?

Perhaps we should ask, "How did they get there in the first place?"

That June meeting was called the Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services. Nearly every other state and territory engaged in a similar activity that year. In Oregon, the group was made of every possible part of the Oregon community: people from ranches, small towns, coastal and mountain communities. They represented the working people, the retired, high-schoolers, the professions, the handicapped. About a third were actively involved in the governing or the operations of libraries or information services. The rest asked questions, commented or sought clarification: how should a library decide upon and deliver services to its community?

During that conference, participants examined those needs and issues in order to prioritize them, to transform them into the more rigorous and specific language of formal resolutions, and to direct these resolutions to individuals, groups or agencies whose responsibility it would be to act upon them.

Oregon is a geographically and demographically diverse state. Oregon can be divided by legislative districts, educational service districts, or zip code areas. None of these provides equal information services to everyone, for none of these divisions reflects all of the people's needs for information, knowledge, entertainment or any of the other responsibilities we place on those variously housed institutions we call "libraries."

In that June meeting of 1978 these people, representing that diverse state, drew up into resolutions that which they called "Oregon's library and information needs." They had heard from the library profession, from the legislature, from speakers representing all who would be heard.

By the end of the Conference, the delegates had adopted eight resolutions dealing with financial support of libraries and library services. Nine more dealt with the establishment of regional and cooperative library services. Four resolutions dealt with public relations and access to information. Three dealt with extension of library and information services.

Three resolutions related to the physical structure of library buildings, one to the removal of architectural barriers. Three related to the continuing improvement and education of staff for excellence in library services. Two related to the development of standards for the measuring of library needs and library services appropriate to them . . . and three others fell into a group named as miscellaneous.

They addressed forty-two resolutions to the U.S. Congress, the State Legislature and to local units of government. They addressed the American Library Association, the State Library, the State Board of Education and the State System of Higher Education. They charged such groups as the Oregon Citizen's Lobby, Oregon Educational Public Broadcasting System, Oregon Library Association and the Oregon Educational Media Association, and offices of the State Archivist, the State Librarian and the Governor.

During the time the conference delegates were supporting those forty-two resolutions, they rejected other resolutions which had addressed such topics as: state grants for the removal of architectural barriers, limiting state use of Library Services and Construction Act funds to 25%, federal per capita support, a state lottery for library support, a federal program to inform Oregonians about libraries, and federal no-match grants for capital expenditures.

Following the amendment and consensus adoption of resolutions, eight delegates and three alternates were elected to attend the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, still more than a year away.

Again, an admixture of representation: an administrator/school media specialist, a lawyer, a housewife who loved libraries and pandas; a city-country minister, a state librarian, a rancher/ex-legislator; a lobbyist, a public library director from a college community; a city manager, a special librarian/mycologist, a city councilwoman. These people had been active during the early part of the process—the "Speak-outs" held in the various communities in the state which brought out the issues to be discussed, the questionnaires which were handed across library counters and slipped into grocery bags.

To prepare for the White House Conference, these delegates remained involved in listening, in information gathering, in other activities which strengthened their representative roles. They attended a Western Caucus meeting, formed of similar folk from nineteen western states concerned about communicating the unique and real needs of states west of the Mississippi to the rest of the nation. This meeting became a "field test" for all the delegates, testing their ability to work together in a short time with delegates from states whose priorities were different from theirs. By November of 1979, the White House Conference held few surprises that could not be dealt with by previous experience.

National media covered the White House Conference. The results of that Conference are yet to appear in official form. The five themes had been publicized to the delegates in earlier mailings of context papers, position papers, tape recordings and newsletters. The work was completed at the Conference under the usual pressures of time, tight agendas and the politics of the profession.

What were the views after Washington?

Any event of such magnitude is reported from many points of view. To the *Wall Street Journal,* it appeared that the process resulted in a "disorderly and enthusiastic product" out of which someone must "create some order and (bring) some hard questions to bear." There was concern that too much was being asked of federal agencies, and that in asking for too much, we stood to lose that which has so long been the real foundation of both our school systems and our libraries: immediate and intense local support.[1]

An Oregon delegate, summarizing the Conference for the educational media groups, felt that Oregonians saw very different solutions to their library and information services problems than did some of the more vociferous eastern delegates. That report is relevant reading for all who are involved in this question, for it translates across the entire field of libraries and information services.

A Report on the White House Conference to Those Who Work With School Library Media Programs:

The first White House Conference on Library and Information Services met in Washington, D.C., on

[1]Editorial. *The Wall Street Journal,* vCII, n9, January 14, 1980, p14. (See Appendix for full text)

November 15-19, 1979. Over 1200 delegates and alternates from throughout the states and territories brought with them a mixture of optimism and cynicism.

The delegates were optimistic about the role that libraries and information services can play in helping maintain an enlightened citizenry in this democratic republic, for the roles that libraries can play in equalizing opportunities for the less fortunate in society, and for extending library services to the vast unserved and underserved areas of the country. They were cynical about the ability of the federal government to do these things and seemed to regularly cry out, "all these things can be done, but they cannot best be done by appropriating vast new federal dollars."

This was a grassroots conference. It put official Washington on notice than many needs exist, that these needs can be met by the localities working together to provide specific services needed by local populations, and it reminded the federal government that it should act as a partner to help fill service gaps that cannot be provided locally.

White House Conference resolutions: a sampling

Networking. Delegates were strongly committed to the development of formal and informal networks among libraries and information centers for the purpose of making scarce resources more equitably available to library users regardless of their geographic location.

"All types of library and information centers have resources which can contribute to library and information services, networks, and programs at all geographic levels." From Resolution No. 8, Networking.

Equality of Opportunity. Delegates recognized that all citizens, not only those traditionally served, should have ease of access to the resources of this information-rich society. Among the underserved population cited were the aged, homebound, racial and ethnic minorities, the geographically isolated, those with physical, mental and emotional handicaps and non-English speaking peoples.

"Libraries and information services are obligated to reach to all persons." From Resolution No. 7, Access.

National Policy. Throughout the Conference the delegates picked their way through the mine field of national versus local control. In the end, certain key functions were recommended as the province of the federal government. A strong resolution was passed confirming the federal role in assuring first amendment rights including the freedom of inquiry, freedom to publish, and free and full access to information by all citizens. The delegates also called for the focusing of federal library policy in an office administered by an Assistant Secretary in the new Department of Education.

"A national focus and a national priority for libraries as centers for information, education and lifelong learning is needed to provide national coordination for all types of libraries." From Resolution No. 1, Assistant Secretary for Library and Information Services.

Local Control. As indicated above, federal versus local control was a major discussion point. A strong demand for maximum local control came through in served resolutions.

"We reaffirm the tradition of local control over the selection and purchase of library materials." From Resolution No. 2, National Information Policy.

"Be it resolved, that control of . . . networks remain at the state or regional level." From Resolution No. 8, Networking.

In concluding the report to the group he had represented as a delegate he drew up five implications for these centers which may indeed speak to all who work with libraries, for if we examine each, we find the responsibilities for each of the groups within our "library communities" clearly pertinent:

At this early date it is difficult to extrapolate the precise impact that the Conference may have upon school library/media centers. However, the brandy glass used as a crystal ball by these writers indicates:

1. An increase in direct federal funding should *not* be anticipated. The profession will have to work diligently to retain existing federal support at the current levels.
2. If school library media centers want to remain in the mainstream of information service delivery in the country, they must make greater efforts to integrate their programs with public, academic and special libraries. School library media centers have enjoyed favored status when compared with the other types of

libraries. Their resources must be shared if credibility is to be retained.

3. Even though media specialists have long known that the library media center is the most potent force for individualizing learning in the school, school library media centers must make a renewed effort, along with the rest of the educational community, to extend services to students with exceptional learning styles including the handicapped, minorities, non-English speaking, talented and gifted and others.
4. Library media specialists must continue to be constantly alert to possible erosion of first amendment freedoms as applied to non-adult populations. The Conference delegates were keenly aware of the vital role that the school library media center occupies in the educational community and supported continuance of that role. The primary advice of the delegate body extended to the library media center seemed to be, "Your centers do not exist in isolation from the rest of the library information community. Continue your good work in the schools but extend your considerable talents and resources to provide leadership in cooperative efforts. The whole of the library-information community can be much greater than the sum of its parts."[2]

An interview with Oregon's State Librarian, Marcia Lowell, summarized what has been the real significance of both these conferences to Oregonians: that they represent not the end of a process, but instead are significant events in a continuous process:

Oregon's tasks: an interview

What was the significance of the Oregon Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services?

"It brought people together—community people and librarians—for the first time in Oregon to talk about libraries: what they are, what they can be."

What were some significant outcomes of that process called a Governor's Conference?

"It reaffirmed some of the basic principles of libraries—

- that the public library is locally controlled
- that free access to information is the work of libraries
- that we affirm once again the principles of intellectual freedom, as put forth in the Library Bill of Rights.

"Librarians and community people worked together during the Governor's Conference, creating an outline for future library developments in Oregon. They exchanged views on past and present successes or failures of library services, and by drawing on this exchange they created carefully worded resolutions which clarified their concerns for those future developments.

"They argued through the cooperative nature of library services.

"They examined the increased state role in local library funding which has resulted in establishing the principle that local public library service *has value* and should be supported as the next best thing to mandated library service.

"They also brought out the evidence that we have not had an identifiable cadre of advocates for library and information services for Oregon until now."

What were some of the less obvious achievements of the Conference?

"Look at the results of the resolutions. There were so many of those resolutions; they represented such a variety of people, and places in Oregon, and needs. It seemed as though the resolution process would never end while we were involved in it those intensive hours, and now we look at the results and wonder if we did enough."

What didn't happen through the Conference process?

"We seem not to have yet developed a strong group of people who can be counted upon to carry out advocacy and teaching roles when the need arises . . . or when planning is necessary. We sent our representatives, our delegates to the White House Conference on Library and Information Sciences over a year later; were they able to depend on any strong group to help them prepare for that?"

What were the follow-up concerns you had for the Governor's Conference? What did you expect to have happen for the delegates to the national conference before they went to Washington, D.C. in November?

"It would seem there should be three phases to the work after the Governor's Conference. In Phase I we prepared the delegates to the White House Conference on Library and Information Services with basic information about Oregon's library situation,

[2]Maxwell, James in an article prepared for *Interchange*, the quarterly journal of the Oregon Educational Media Association. V9, no.3, Spring 1980.

with the philosophies of Oregon citizens and library groups.

"Phase II should follow now that the White House Conference is completed in Washington D.C. This phase needs to involve again those Governor's Conference delegates with the White House Conference delegates in such questions as:

- How can we build concern in citizens in Oregon for what becomes of their libraries?
- How can we assure communication between libraries and librarians of various kinds? We are yet weak on this; we have far to go in developing those communication networks, the continuing library education programs, the citizen-involving projects.

"And Phase III—the real development work—should be devoted to planning for a similar Governor's Conference in 1982, where we would look at what has been accomplished in library development for Oregon since that 1978 Conference, and take a sharp look at what yet needs to be done. We cannot stop examining what we've accomplished, for it is our only measure of how far we have come."

Was the Governor's Conference an effective *process for Oregon?*

"We have yet to effectively *complete* the process. The process is not yet over; we need yet to translate the value of the conference into visible support for libraries statewide . . . people support, financial support, political support.

"The simple acts have been done. We have passed state aid to libraries. That may not seem simple. But compare it to what we must now do.

"We must begin building collaborative library and information linking relationships statewide.

"We must encourage those interactions across geographic distances we have long seen as barriers.

"We must learn to be easier about crossing what we have called budgetary boundaries, not realizing that we have let those self-set boundaries keep us from the cooperation that costs no money and that always provides those intangible benefits.

"We must engage ourselves rigorously in examining our attitudes about libraries, about important topics in communities, about cooperating with invisible telephone voices.

"We have to develop techniques for library staffs to use. They are formally (and sometimes formidably) called interaction/intervention processes, and can help librarians to:

- Learn to examine the real concerns of a community
- Look for the "unserved users" or the "non-users" of libraries
- Learn to successfully speak to Rotary Clubs on topics *they* care about—or to Boards of Education as they establish standards and guidelines for school library media programs

"If we believe that communities are "aggregations of small groups" can we continue to operate as though our own community has only a *few* groups?"

The Governor's Conference taught us a lot about Oregon. What did we learn from our delegates' involvement with the White House Conference on Library and Information Services?

"We knew that we might profit from a "dry run" of that much larger process, and so we worked with a group of western states—seventeen, actually—to try out the reality of "working away from home."

"That Western Caucus experience, meeting in Boise for two days, served to introduce delegates from those seventeen states. It was indeed a "dry run" on conference realities.

"Could the development of a strong western bond among delegates surface the commonalities we shared and the knowledge that we could trust each other?

"We learned there would be splits between big states and little states . . . that those who were for urban support had different reasons for supporting it than those who advocated rural funding . . . that the regional ties were useful to us here in the west, but that in some eastern states it was more important to know who had more money available at the state level, or who had so little that the only remaining alternative was to go for federal support.

"And finally, we proved to ourselves, as western states, that whatever the outcome of the White House Conference process, that we still had some options that our eastern cousins might no longer have for actions at the *state* level—and that we needed to learn to exhaust those options rather than turn only to federal support in order to provide best services from our libraries to the people of Oregon.

"And then we went to Washington. And we came back from Washington to continue our own process of sorting these problems out one from another. We need now to act upon our resolutions here in Oregon."

Marcia Lowell, State Librarian, Oregon
February, 1980

The Oregon resolutions: a synopsis

Resolution calling for the Legislature to require all agencies, boards and commissions to file a monthly report of *all materials printed and published* with the Oregon State Library

Results: Senate Bill 46 has been passed and now requires that the State Printer withhold on behalf of the State Library 45 copies of all state documents
(Misc. 1)

Resolution calling upon Oregon Library Association, Oregon State Library, the League of Oregon Cities and the Association of Oregon Counties to become aggressively involved in the planning and formulation of *Comprehensive Plans* to ensure consideration of library user needs in that process

Results: Standards which are being proposed for approval by Oregon Library Association and the Oregon State Library Board encourage the development of Plans for Library Service by all libraries, to be updated every 5 years.
(Misc. 2—Amended)

Resolution calling upon the state of Oregon to provide funding for *continuing statewide library communication* through telephone credit carts and toll-free lines after the end of the LSCA grant:

Results: The Library Services and Construction Act Advisory Council and Oregon State Library Board have approved another year of funding for the Communications Network
(Misc. 3)

Resolution calling upon the governor, the state library and professional library organizations of Oregon to bring about every four years a conference structured similarly to the 1978 Governor's *Conference on Library and Information Services* to initiate planning that will create programs specifically to carry out the intent of all long range plans for libraries and information services

Results: No action yet visible, though such work is going on behind the scenes
(Misc. 4—Amended)

Resolution calling upon the Governor's Conference Committee *evaluation* group to send copies of resolutions, evaluations, and suggestions from the various groups to all libraries or communities offering library services through professional bulletins or state library publications

Results: Evaluations and resolutions were sent; Conference delegates and Oregon State Library are involved in reporting to interested groups.
(Misc. 5, 7)

Resolutions calling upon the Oregon State Legislature to amend the Oregon State statutes which establish basic municipal services to include *library services as an essential public service*

Results: No action as yet
(Misc. 8)

Resolution calling upon the state librarian and state archivist to work together to assess the need for and assist local libraries in the *protection and preservation of historical and other unique library material*

Results: The Western Council of State Libraries has received a National Historic Publications and Records Commission grant to assess the need for cooperative conservation activities in the west. The Oregon workshop will be held in February 1980.
(Misc. 9—Amended)

Resolution calling upon the American Library Association to encourage the microform publishers and microform equipment manufacturers to attempt to *standardize the field of microform publication*

Results: Letters containing the resolution were sent to publishers.
(Misc. 11)

Resolution calling upon Congress and the Oregon State Legislature and librarians of Oregon to *resist attempts at censorship*

Results: We are resisting . . .
(Misc. 12—Amended)

Resolution calling upon all libraries and library patrons in the state of Oregon to encourage and support formation of *Friends of the Library or similar patron groups* where they do not exist, to encourage these groups to exchange ideas, information and strategies, to consult with such groups when formulating library goals and policies and to encourage an annual meeting of such groups in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Oregon Library Association

Results: There have been some efforts to begin a statewide Friends of Libraries group
(Misc. 15—Amended)

Resolution calling upon the Oregon State Library to compile and make available to all libraries in the state *listings of materials available for adult non-readers* and/or adults of limited reading ability

Results: Lists were prepared and sent out from the state library
(Misc. 16)

Resolution calling upon the Oregon Library Association to present updated *standards for public libraries* (in the manner of American Library Association Standards published in 1964) by 1980

Results: Standards are now being prepared for action by the Oregon Library Association Board and the Oregon State Library Board, standards which will be applicable to individual libraries (which are more common in the state of Oregon than library systems, to which the earlier standards spoke)
(Misc. 17)

Resolution calling upon publicly funded libraries to explore viable *alternatives to new construction* including mobile delivery systems, leased or rented facilities, semi-permanent structures, or the like

Results: Local communities are encouraging such actions according to their own priorities
(Misc. 18)

Resolution calling upon the Oregon State Library (1) to provide for a formal *assessment of the current level of library service* now available to all areas and groups within the state, and (2) that such an assessment lead to *state standards of minimum service*

Results: Standards are being prepared and in that process needs will be assessed by each community. The Oregon State Library will develop a handbook to be appended to the new Public Library Association Standards (in preparation) which will be a "how to" process for libraries and communities on local planning
(Basic Services 19—Amended)

Resolution calling upon the Oregon State Legislature and the Trustees of the State Library to provide for *statewide access to as wide a range of materials as possible* by implementing a program which would provide for studies of the concept of a regional statewide user card, an ongoing compilation of a union list of all available resources held by tax-supported libraries, provision for statewide rapid communication and delivery system using available technology and establishment by the state library of a "Last Book Depository"

Results: A project has been funded to provide a regional coordinator and funds for seven planning areas to develop regional and state plans for regional library development
(Basic Services 20)

Resolution calling upon the Oregon State Library, Special Libraries Association, Oregon Educational Media Association and/or the American Library Association to urge the state library to create, fund and fill a fulltime *public relations* position to institute public awareness of libraries, and to help inform the associations of methods available for reaching the general population, especially the current non user of libraries, by messages in the various media

Results: The counties of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington received a grant for a public relations coordinator. No statewide position has been funded
(Public Relations 22)

Resolution calling upon the U.S. Congress to give books by mail and the *mailing of library materials* franking privileges or very minimal postal rates to provide all citizens with library services

Results: No action
(Special Groups 24)

Resolution calling upon Oregon's libraries, the state legislature, the Oregon Architectural Barriers Council and Oregon Citizen's Lobby to remove *barriers preventing handicapped citizens from access* to library facilities or programs

Results: The new standards for Oregon library service require all library buildings to be barrier free by 1985. Service to blind and/or print handicapped has been expanded by the Oregon State Library and Blind and Physically Handicapped Library Service
(Special Groups 26—Amended)

Resolution calling upon the Oregon Legislature to establish a special two-year grant program which would allow any existing library to apply for special funds to establish new services to an identified area of *unserved patrons.* Priority areas should include programs for the physically and mentally handicapped, blind and partially sighted patrons in remote geographical areas, senior citizens and the incarcerated

Results: Service to the unserved is a priority of the Oregon Long Range Plan for Library Services and Construction Act funds as well as the Establishment and Development portions of Oregon State Aid to Public Libraries. Grants have and will continue to be awarded in this area
(Special Groups 27)

Resolution calling upon local, state and federal government to provide funding to enable government agencies operating local institutions to *provide inmates with access to library services* at a level equal to that of the general public within the areas served by that facility

Results: Oregon State Library has a policy for the encouragement of local libraries to serve inmates of correctional institutions in their communities. Oregon State Library still contributes to the support of libraries within state institutions
(Special Groups 28)

Resolution calling upon the Chancellor and the Oregon Department of Higher Education, the Northwest Association of Private Colleges and Universities, the Northwest Association of Higher Schools, the Oregon State Legislature and the Governor to investigate and take appropriate steps to create, establish and to fund the establishment and implementation of a *graduate school of librarianship* in Oregon

Results: No action
(Education 29—Amended)

Resolution calling upon the Oregon State Library, Oregon State Legislature, Oregon State Board of Higher Education, Oregon State Department of Education, Oregon Educational Media Association and Oregon Library Association to (1) implement coordinated *continuing education experiences* for all levels of library personnel, with exchange of information among the various agencies making use of resources available, (2) provide funds for resource specialists and workshops and provide coordinating services to make attendance possible, to provide scholarship aid, and to take continuing education to the local areas

Results: Part of the regional project provides funds and staff for continuing education. The Oregon Educational Media Association, Oregon Library Association, in cooperation with higher education and special interest groups. have placed high priorities on continuing education projects and activities around the state
(Education 30)

Resolution calling upon the Oregon State Library as coordinating agency to provide for meaningful *exchange of staff* between operating library organizations

Results: Staff exchanges have occurred, mainly between Oregon State Library and public libraries
(Education 31)

Resolution calling upon the Oregon State Board of Education to establish standards for public schools requiring that *school library media centers* be staffed by at least one fulltime certified teacher with appropriate training in library/media center operation with additional certified and/or clerical assistance appropriate to the size of the school

Results: The study group of the State Board continues to work out the wording of state standards for media programs, including the staffing, holdings and programs which are to be made available to all students in Oregon regardless of school size
(Education 32)

Resolution calling upon the State Department of Education to clarify the rules and regulations regarding requirements for *staffing for elementary and secondary school libraries*

Results: The State Department of Education and the Superintendent continue to work with the study group of the State Board of Education to finalize wording of the state standards
(Education 33)

Resolution calling upon the Oregon Legislature to provide funds for the state library in cooperation with Oregon Educational and Public Broadcasting Services to provide programs, workshops and continuing education through weekly *public television programs* devoted to library research skill training, childrens services, young adults services and general information on libraries

Results: No action
(Education 34)

Resolution calling upon the United States Congress to provide funding for implementing a *computerized information sharing network* in the United States

Results: Some action toward this, but not in this fashion
(Networking 36)

Resolution calling upon the Oregon Legislature to develop financial assistance for the establishment of *regional multi-type library cooperative systems*

Results: The regional coordinator will include this as part of the goal for regional cooperative planning and development
(Networking 37—Amended)

Resolution calling upon the State Superintendent of Public Schools and the state library to encourage *implementation of cooperative services* and establishment of liaison between public, school, academic and special libraries to avoid duplication of services and materials

Results: Regional planning will aim for this

(Networking 38))

Resolution calling upon the governor, the state

legislature and the state library to provide funding for planning and implementing a *statewide computerized information sharing network* among the libraries of Oregon, compatible with the MARC format of national networks

Results: Work is continuing on a small project which integrates machine readable bibliographic data from a number of sources, including the OCLC, Baker and Taylor, Washington Library Network and other bibliographic projects
(Networking 39)

Resolution calling upon the governor, the state legislature and the state librarian to continue the work of the State Advisory Council Task Force on Regionalization and to work toward implementing goals developed by that task force, including revision of state statutes which act as *barriers to cooperation among libraries* and establishing the position of a regionalization consultant in the state library

Results: The regional project has been designed to achieve this, and has clarified that there are no specific regulations preventing cooperation among libraries . . . but neither have there yet been any *encouraging* cooperation
(Networking 40)

Resolution calling upon the state legislature to provide funding incentives for interlibrary loan service to encourage certain libraries who have been reluctant to provide *interlibrary loan services* to users

Results: The regional project is charged with exploring this issue
(Networking 41)

Resolution calling upon the 1979 Oregon Legislature to provide a substantial, assured level of *per capita funding* for public library operations from general fund revenues with the requirement of maintenance of local financial effort

Results: Per capita funding for public libraries was provided in 1979 biennium at the rate of $ .21
(Funding 42—Amended)

Resolution calling upon the governor and the state legislature to assume *full financial responsibility* for the operation of the state library through the state general fund, using all federal money for public libraries to benefit local libraries

Results: Local libraries currently receive $800,000 through the state aid program of funding for libraries. This is the equivalent of all federal monies received by the state library from Library Services and Construction Act Title I and Title III funds. This amount is up from previous years
(Funding 46)

Resolution calling upon the U.S. Congress to appropriate full funding for Library Service and Construction Act Title II (*library construction*)

Results: No action presently
(Funding 48—Amended)

Resolution calling upon the U.S. Congress to provide "incentive grants" and/or low interest rate *loans for library construction* so that public libraries with inadequate facilities may be improved to meet local needs

Results: Current mini-grant program provides up to $3,000 (which may be matched and doubled with local funds) for any local library needs including library construction, repairs, sprucing up or materials acquisition; i.e. any project the community can justify as local needs
(Funding 51)

Resolution calling upon the state of Oregon to provide ongoing funding for courier service and *lending of materials between libraries*

Results: Much of this has been the matching up of courier services on local initiative, such as Washington/Clackamas counties; Clackamas/Oregon State Library/Chemeketa; Lane/Douglas counties and others
(Funding 55)

Resolution calling upon the electorate of the state of Oregon in cooperation with the concerned library community to become informed on the *political process and the issues* at local, state and federal levels *that affect library services in Oregon,* and actively support proposed legislation strengthening library service for all the citizens of Oregon, individually and through participation in the campaigns of candidates who share commitment to Oregon libraries and information services

Results: State aid to libraries passed, which may be a good sign that more of the electorate are active
(Political action and awareness 58)

APPENDIX

A Glossary of Library and Information Services Terms:

Access: the timely availability of information in a usable format.

Computer: an electronic machine that stores information entered from an external source, manipulates that information according to instructions in computer programs, and supplies results on paper, video display or some electronic storage medium such as magnetic tape.

Consortium: a formal or informal association of libraries or other organizations having the same or interrelated objectives.

Data Base: a compilation of information, usually stored in a computer, which can be summoned one piece at a time or in batches (for example, one title of a book or a list of works on a subject) as needed by the user. (Sometimes referred to as a data bank.)

Free Access to Libraries: free of costs beyond taxation funds paid by citizens to municipalities in which they live.

Information Storage and Retrieval: the process of retrieving information from a storage place in response to a request. This may be a manual operation (e.g., taking a book off of a shelf in the library) or a machine operation involving information stored on a computer.

Information Services: the provision of information, using print and non-print and/or human resources. Includes reference service and reader's services in libraries.

Interlibrary Cooperation: two or more libraries agree to share library materials, staff or facilities in an attempt to improve their individual library's services.

Institutional Library: a library within a prison, hospital, or similar center serving the needs of its residents.

Library: an institution where diverse information is stored and systematically organized, and where services are provided to facilitate its use. It may contain books, films, magazines, maps, manuscripts, microfilms, audiovisual materials, tape recordings.

Media Center: a term used to expand the traditional definition of "school library" and to refer to a systematic collection with an emphasis on non-print media.

Microfiche, Microfilm, Microform: photographic film used for recording graphic information in a reduced size.

Network: a cooperative arrangement among libraries for the sharing and exchange of information and services. There are local, state, regional and national library networks in the U.S., many linked via computer.

Outreach Services: library service for those people who do not live within a reasonable distance of a library, who are confined or restricted to an institution or who are otherwise prevented from using existing library facilities.

Resource Sharing: a means by which information and/or materials in one library are available to users of another library.

School Library Media Center: an area or system of areas in the school where a full range of information resources, associated equipment, and services are accessible to students, school personnel, and the school community.

Special Library: includes libraries in private business and industrial organizations, associations and societies, or departments of federal, state, county, or municipal governments. Some are in nonprofit institutions and some are subject oriented branches of public or university library complexes. Special libraries are often differentiated by limitations in subject scope, use by a specialized clientele, small size, and an emphasis on providing users with answers to questions rather than materials.

State Library Agency: the official library agency charged with providing service to state government. Responsibilities of this agency have been expanded in many states to include extension and development of public library services throughout the state. The Federal Library Services and Construction Act designates the State Library Agency as the body to administer funds granted under this Act. Increasingly, the state library is responsible for statewide planning and coordination of cooperative library and information services.

Trustee: a member of the governing body of a public library.

User fees: fees charged for services, such as computer data base searches, beyond the usual scope of services provided through taxation funds.

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Diffusions of Knowledge

Our public libraries, the world's best, have been in trouble lately. Inflation is hiking their costs and localities are getting less willing to raise taxes to foot the bills. A White House Conference on Library and Information Services has just produced a hefty list of recommendations on how public policy can improve these centers of knowledge and help us cope with the information future before us. And now if someone doesn't go about pruning those recommendations with a meat-axe, they could end up doing the libraries more harm than good.

The biggest item on the delegates' agenda, not surprisingly, was to get more federal money into a luxuriant variety of new library programs. The conference called for expanded programs to combat illiteracy, expanded programs to serve the disabled, expanded programs to reach disadvantaged populations, expanded programs to meet the needs of American Indians, expanded programs of international information exchange, expanded programs to aid libraries according to their various geographic and community population characteristics.

The delegates also passed a scattering of resolutions dealing with items from computers to free expression: They asked for the development of standards for storing new forms of information, declared themselves in favor of privacy, and supported the First Amendment. And they issued the obligatory call for a new government office: an Assistant Secretary for Library and Information Services, whom they want placed in the Department of Education.

The shopping list was strikingly diffuse, but there were a couple of things just as strikingly missing from it. For one thing, there wasn't much sense of the possibility that all the categorical federal programs the delegates have called for may be the last kind of help that community libraries need. Our public libraries have traditionally had the same weaknesses and strengths of our decentralized public school system. Local citizenries run the libraries; this fact has brought its share of strains and limitations along with it, but it has also given the libraries a source of irreplaceably immediate and intense support.

The many programs the conference envisioned are of the type that carries a real danger of eroding such support by wrapping its bounty in a blanket of centralized directions and decisions on how the money is to be spent. Such gifts have piled up a rather poor record of performance so far; the conference resolutions, despite several obeisances to the notion of local control, didn't show much concern for whether the story might be repeated.

Also curiously missing, in all the concern about outreach and information transmission, was the idea that libraries might have a goal other than sending out as much up-to-date, immediately useful information to as many people as possible. At the end of the conference, Librarian of Congress Daniel Boorstin reminded the delegates that there's a difference between information and knowledge, and that libraries might be failing in their obligation to encourage a knowledgeable citizenry if they start purveying "today's news and journals and reprints and loose-leaf services and telephone conversations and currently revised print-outs" in preference to the more orderly, traditional sources of wisdom.

But once again, the conference didn't show much sign of emphasizing this real public policy danger.

It was a good idea to call a library and information services conference. There truly are ways in which the federal government can help libraries, and there are indubitably new problems of information technology that we're going to have to start addressing. But now someone's going to have to start sorting these problems out from one another, and bringing some order and some hard questions to bear on the conference's disorderly, enthusiastic product.

Staying involved in the library picture

The State Librarian
Oregon State Library
Salem, Oregon 97310

I have read your report on library and information services in Oregon and am interested in:

____Finding out more about library services in Oregon

- ____ public libraries
- ____ school libraries
- ____ academic libraries
- ____ special libraries
- ____ library networks
- ____ regional libraries

____Becoming involved with groups who are working toward promoting better library and information services.

____Finding out about continuing library education opportunities

- ____ coursework
- ____ special sessions
- ____ professional exchange programs

____Subscribing to WATERMARK, the newsletter of the Oregon State Library ($5.00 to The Business Office, Oregon State Library)

I'd like to share with the "library community"and you the following observations about this publication and what it contains:

Address_____

Name_____

Phone_____

Thank you for your concern